

REMARKS

Claims 14-17 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 101 for the reasons set forth in paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Office Action letter. As the Examiner will note, claims 14-17 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner and accordingly, it is believed that this rejection has been eliminated.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ueda, U.S. Patent 7,298,505. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a system for processing print jobs, including print account jobs, in a network, comprising a plurality of client stations adapted to submit print jobs, and at least one printing device comprising a control unit and a printer, the control unit containing storage means for storing print jobs submitted in the printing device. More specifically, the present invention provides a system wherein account information can be added to the print job in a very flexible manner. To this end, means are provided for generating and submitting a print account job containing account information of a print job, wherein the print account job is linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier, and by means for validating stored print jobs for printing, wherein the validating means receives account jobs and validates a corresponding print job for printing in case a valid account job has been received. In this manner, a system is obtained wherein account information is submitted in a print account job which is generated as a second print job linked to the first print job.

The focal point of the present invention lies in the fact that for the submission of account information from the perspective of a user, a mere print command is used. Thus, the account information is packed and generated in the same manner as a normal print job from the perspective of a job submitting workstation. This has a big advantage in that from each and every station where you can submit a print job, you also will be able to submit account information for the job. It is just necessary to submit a second print job with the accounting information in it, at the right place, so that the receiving station will understand that it is not a

real print job but rather concerns accounting information belonging to another print job. This means that no additional software is necessary to be installed on such a work station. The submitting work station perceives the account job as just another normal print job, and it does not matter if the job submission is done by filling in a job ticket or just by a sample print command. The method according to the present invention can be used by every print job submitting system.

The ultimate example is given in the description, wherein a Unix-like environment, the job submission command (print command) "IPR" is available. This same command is used one time for submitting the print job (for which it is intended to be used) and one time for submitting accounting information concerning the job. The system at the other end, that is, at the printer side, knows how to interpret this so-called "print" job and extracts the account information from it, stores it and eventually will validate the corresponding real print job with it.

In an effort to more specifically define the Applicant's inventive contribution claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the print account job is generated as a second print job linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier. Basis for this amendment to claims 1 and 8 can be found in the present application as published in the United States in paragraph [0006] where it is recited that the account information is submitted in a print account job which is generated as a second print job linked to the first print job.

The Ueda reference relied upon by the Examiner is directed to a printing apparatus, printing method and printing system for printing password-protected and normal print jobs. Since the Ueda patent does not address the feature of the present invention wherein the control unit of the printing device is adapted to receive print jobs and print account jobs which are generated as a second print job, it is believed that the prior art reference does not even remotely suggest the present invention.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/780,860
Amendment dated July 2, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2008

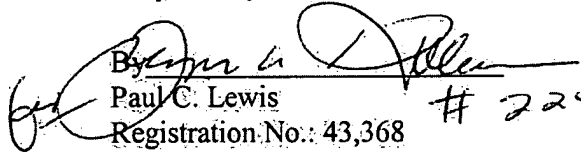
Docket No.: 0142-0446P

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch Reg. No. 22,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,


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